

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12 and 15-17 are amended, claims 19 and 20 are added, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of originally filed claim 2. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 are amended for form. Claim 6 is amended for clarity. Support for new claim 19 can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0034] and in Figs. 4-10. Support for new claim 20 can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0012] and in Figs. 20-22. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Trinh in the September 10, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 3 and 6-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants submit that all pending claims should be allowed.

I. The Specification Satisfies Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the arrangement of the headers of the specification and the Abstract for minor informalities. Applicants have amended the specification, including the Abstract, to correct the minor informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection of canceled claim 2 is moot, and the rejection of claims 1 and 3-17 is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Office Action alleges that independent claim 1 is indefinite for various reasons. However, as discussed during the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is definite, because claim 1 is clearly defines the relationships between the claimed supplying device, holding device and caulking device.

With respect to claims 3 and 6, the Office Action alleges that claims 3 and 6 are indefinite for various reasons. Applicants have amended claims 3 and 6 for clarity, and respectfully submit that claims 3 and 6 are clear and definite.

With respect to claim 7, the Office Action alleges that claim 7 fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed magnets. As agreed during the personal interview, the features of claim 7 are clear and have a proper antecedent basis.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,082,603 to Takada et al. (hereinafter "Takada"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,894 to Tsujimoto et al. (hereinafter "Tsujimoto"). As discussed above, claim 2 is canceled, and thus the rejection of claim 2 is moot. The rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Takada nor Tsujimoto, even in combination, discloses or renders obvious (1) a caulking device caulking the end portions of the respective two component holding tapes and the connecting member which are held by the holding device, by causing at least one of the plurality of caulking claws of the connecting member to pierce through each of the end portions of the respective two component holding tapes, and (2) a supplying device that

includes a rotary body positioning the plurality of connecting members one by one in a predetermined position, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action, citing Fig. 16 of Takada, alleges that Takada discloses a caulking device as recited in independent claim 1. However, the Office Action also acknowledges that in the event Takada does not disclose a caulking device, Tsujimoto discloses a caulking device. In particular, the Office Action alleges the caulking device 30 of Tsujimoto corresponds to the claimed caulking device. Applicants respectfully disagree with these assertions.

Fig. 16 of Takada merely discloses a pressing roller 170 and a lever 172 (the alleged caulking device of Takada) which cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to the claimed caulking device because the pressing roller 170 and the lever 172 are for showing the detection of the metallic connecting member 100, by forcing the metallic connecting member 100 against two separate electrodes 166 for reliably establishing an electric continuity between the two separated electrodes 166 via the metallic connecting member 100 (see Takada, col. 18, lines 24-28). Therefore, as argued during the personal interview, the pressing roller 170 and the lever 172 (the alleged caulking device of Takada) do not cause the caulking claws of the connecting member 100 to pierce through each of the end portions of the component holding tapes 64 that are supplied by a supplying roller 76.

In addition, with respect to Tsujimoto, the caulking device 30 of Tsujimoto (the alleged caulking device of Tsujimoto) is provided for caulking the outer and intermediate cylinders 2 and 4 of Tsujimoto, and does not caulk the component holding tapes and the connecting member of Tsujimoto. Moreover, the caulking device 30 of Tsujimoto does not cause a part of any object to pierce through a part of another object, as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, Takada fails to disclose a rotary member as recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action alleges that Takada discloses a rotary member without providing explicit support for this assertion (see Office Action, page 4, line 19). Notwithstanding the deficiency of the Office Action, Applicants submit that Takada fails to disclose any element that can reasonably be considered to correspond to the claimed rotary body as recited in independent claim 1. In addition, Tsujimoto fails to remedy the deficiency of Takada.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, the combination of Takada and Tsujimoto fails to disclose or render obvious all of the features of independent claim 1. In addition, claims 4 and 5 also are patentable over the combination of Takada and Tsujimoto, at least in view of the patentability of independent claim 1 from which these claims depend, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Office Action's Failure to Address Claim 18

The Office Action fails to address independent claim 18, which Applicants consider as currently allowed.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Substitute Abstract

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